

TARIFF PREFERENCE LEVEL

§ 10.606 Filing of claim for tariff preference level.

A cotton or man-made fiber apparel good of Nicaragua described in § 10.607 of this subpart that does not qualify as an originating good under § 10.594 of this subpart may nevertheless be entitled to preferential tariff treatment under the CAFTA–DR under an applicable tariff preference level (TPL). To make a TPL claim, the importer must include on the entry summary, or equivalent documentation, the applicable subheading in Chapter 99 of the HTSUS (9915.61.01) immediately above the applicable subheading in Chapter 61 or 62 of the HTSUS under which each non-originating cotton or man-made fiber apparel good is classified.

§ 10.607 Goods eligible for tariff preference level claims.

Goods eligible for a TPL claim consist of cotton or man-made fiber apparel goods provided for in U.S. Note 15(b), Subchapter XV, Chapter 99, HTSUS, that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of Nicaragua, and that meet the applicable conditions for preferential tariff treatment under the CAFTA–DR, other than the condition that they are originating goods. The preferential tariff treatment is limited to the quantities specified in U.S. Note 15(c), Subchapter XV, Chapter 99, HTSUS.

§ 10.608 Submission of certificate of eligibility.

An importer who claims preferential tariff treatment on a non-originating cotton or man-made fiber apparel good must submit a certificate of eligibility issued by an authorized official of the Government of Nicaragua, demonstrating that the good is eligible for entry under the applicable TPL, as set forth in § 10.607 of this subpart. The certificate of eligibility must be in writing or must be transmitted electronically pursuant to any electronic means authorized by CBP for that purpose.

§ 10.609 Transshipment of non-originating cotton or man-made fiber apparel goods.

(a) *General.* A good will not be considered eligible for preferential tariff treatment under an applicable TPL by reason of having undergone production that would enable the good to qualify for preferential tariff treatment if subsequent to that production the good:

(1) Undergoes production or any other operation outside the territories of the Parties, other than unloading, reloading, or any other operation necessary to preserve the good in good condition or to transport the good to the territory of a Party; or

(2) Does not remain under the control of customs authorities in the territory of a non-Party.

(b) *Documentary evidence.* An importer making a claim for preferential tariff treatment under an applicable TPL may be required to demonstrate, to CBP's satisfaction, that the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this section were met. An importer may demonstrate compliance with these requirements by submitting documentary evidence. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, bills of lading, airway bills, packing lists, commercial invoices, receiving and inventory records, and customs entry and exit documents.

§ 10.610 Effect of noncompliance; failure to provide documentation regarding transshipment of non-originating cotton or man-made fiber apparel goods.

(a) *Effect of noncompliance.* If an importer of a good for which a TPL claim is made fails to comply with any applicable requirement under this subpart, the port director may deny preferential tariff treatment to the imported good.

(b) *Failure to provide documentation regarding transshipment.* Where the requirements for preferential tariff treatment set forth elsewhere in this subpart are met, the port director nevertheless may deny preferential tariff treatment to a good for which a TPL claim is made if the good is shipped through or transshipped in a country other than a Party, and the importer of the good does not provide, at the request of the port director, evidence

demonstrating to the satisfaction of the port director that the requirements set forth in §10.609(a) of this subpart were met.

ORIGIN VERIFICATIONS AND
DETERMINATIONS

§ 10.616 Verification and justification of claim for preferential tariff treatment.

(a) *Verification.* A claim for preferential tariff treatment made under §10.583(b) of this subpart, including any statements or other information submitted to CBP in support of the claim, will be subject to such verification as the port director deems necessary. In the event that the port director is provided with insufficient information to verify or substantiate the claim, or the exporter or producer fails to consent to a verification visit, the port director may deny the claim for preferential treatment. A verification of a claim for preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR for goods imported into the United States may be conducted by means of one or more of the following:

(1) Written requests for information from the importer, exporter, or producer;

(2) Written questionnaires to the importer, exporter, or producer;

(3) Visits to the premises of the exporter or producer in the territory of the Party in which the good is produced, to review the records of the type referred to in §10.589(c)(1) of this subpart or to observe the facilities used in the production of the good, in accordance with the framework that the Parties develop for conducting verifications; and

(4) Such other procedures to which the Parties may agree.

(b) *Applicable accounting principles.* When conducting a verification of origin to which Generally Accepted Accounting Principles may be relevant, CBP will apply and accept the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles applicable in the country of production.

§ 10.617 Special rule for verifications in a Party of U.S. imports of textile and apparel goods.

(a) *Procedures to determine whether a claim of origin is accurate—(1) General.*

For the purpose of determining that a claim of origin for a textile or apparel good is accurate, CBP may request that the government of a Party conduct a verification, regardless of whether a claim is made for preferential tariff treatment.

(2) *Actions during a verification.* While a verification under this paragraph is being conducted, CBP may take appropriate action, which may include:

(i) Suspending the application of preferential tariff treatment to the textile or apparel good for which a claim for preferential tariff treatment has been made, if CBP determines there is insufficient information to support the claim;

(ii) Denying the application of preferential tariff treatment to the textile or apparel good for which a claim for preferential tariff treatment has been made that is the subject of a verification if CBP determines that an enterprise has provided incorrect information to support the claim;

(iii) Detention of any textile or apparel good exported or produced by the enterprise subject to the verification if CBP determines there is insufficient information to determine the country of origin of any such good; and

(iv) Denying entry to any textile or apparel good exported or produced by the enterprise subject to the verification if CBP determines that the enterprise has provided incorrect information as to the country of origin of any such good.

(3) *Actions following a verification.* On completion of a verification under this paragraph, CBP may take appropriate action, which may include:

(i) Denying the application of preferential tariff treatment to the textile or apparel good for which a claim for preferential tariff treatment has been made that is the subject of a verification if CBP determines there is insufficient information, or that the enterprise has provided incorrect information, to support the claim; and

(ii) Denying entry to any textile or apparel good exported or produced by the enterprise subject to the verification if CBP determines there is insufficient information to determine,